

Message Text

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TAGS: SCUL, AF

SUBJECT: ASA CONVENTION

REF: STATE 271223; KABUL 7506

1. IN LENGTHY CONVERSATION NOVEMBER 19 BETWEEN PAO AND PRESIDENT ART AND CULTURE DEPT MIN INFO AND CULTURE, NOW OBVIOUS THAT GOA NOT INTERESTED FURTHER CONTROL OVER SOCIAL SCIENTISTS, EXCEPT ARCHAEOLOGISTS. GOA CONCERN LIMITED EXCLUSIVELY TO ARCHAEOLOGISTS. FOLLOWING APPEARS TO BE GOA POSITION:

A. GOA IN FUTURE WILL INSIST ON A SINGLE INSTITUTION AS "RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION," WHICH WILL SIGN CONTRACTS WITH GOA. SMITHSONIAN SUGGESTED BY PRESIDENT AS ONE POSSIBILITY, BUT ANY OTHER LEGITIMATE US INSTITUTION ALSO ACCEPTABLE. ANY NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OR INSTITUTIONAL TEAMS CAN WORK HERE IF GOA AGREES PROJECT IS VALID AND FEASIBLE AND IF IN EACH CASE THERE IS INDIVIDUAL CONTRACT SPECIFYING QUID PRO QUOS SIGNED BY SINGLE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION. NO NECESSITY FOR SETTING UP INSTITUTIONAL OFFICE OR STAFF HERE.

B. QUID PRO QUOS IN CONTRACT MUST INCLUDE RESTORATION OF SITE(S) OR MONUMENT(S), NOT NECESSARILY SITE OF ARCHAEOLOGIST'S PROJECT, TO BE NEGOTIATED ON PROJECT-BY-PROJECT BASIS, PLUS SOME TRAINING ABROAD FOR AFGHAN ARCHAEOLOGISTS. DISCUSSION LEFT OPEN POSSIBILITY OF FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO OTHER RESTORATION PROJECTS. NO MENTION MADE TODAY OF CONTRIBUTION TOWARD CONSTRUCTION OF NEW NATIONAL MUSEUM HERE, PER PARA 4 REFTTEL.

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2. AFAMEC COULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FACILITATIVE SUPPORT TO

ALL SCHOLARS, INCLUDING ARCHAEOLOGISTS, AND ACT AS LIAISON WITH GOA, WITHOUT BEING SIGNATORY TO CONTRACTS. WHILE AFAMEC COULD PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN CONTRACT NEGOTIATION BETWEEN ARCHAEOLOGIST AND GOA, THIS REQUIRES FURTHER EXPLORATION AS TO FEASIBILITY.

3. DR. WILLIAM TROUSDALE, HEAD OF SMITHSONIAN TEAM NOW WORKING IN AFGHAN SEISTAN AREA, WILL RETURN WASHINGTON LATE DECEMBER AND HOPES EXPLORE POSSIBILITY SMITHSONIAN ACTING AS "RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION."

4. WE BELIEVE SMITHSONIAN MOST SUITABLE "RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION", BUT OBVIOUSLY FEASIBILITY OF SUCH ARRANGEMENT MUST BE EXPLORED FURTHER. REPEAT OUR SUGGESTION PARA 6 KABUL REFTTEL. ELIOT

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